

Op-25-A-LIP  
A10-1/S68(M10)  
0571328-OU

11 October 1945

MEMORANDUM for Lt. A. P. Hilar  
Electronic Division (Op-25-A3)  
Office of the Chief of Naval Operation  
Room 4722, Navy Department

Subject: Classification of Sonar Section of Chapter III of JANIS reports.

Enclosure: (A) Chapter III of JANIS 76, 77, 81, 84, 85, 87, 102, 103, 104, 153, 154, 155, 157.

1. With reference to your telephone conversation with Lt. Sears in this office, Enclosure (A) is forwarded herewith to enable you to examine the contents of the sonar section with a view to ascertaining whether or not it is permissible to declassify the oceanographic chapter of the JANIS reports to restricted. A considerable number, but not all reports, are submitted, (Enclosure (A)) as the material on sonar has changed markedly in its presentation as the war progressed. For example, reports still in press contain figures adapted from the Submarine Supplements to the Sailing Directions; these have not been included previously. It should be also noted that the bibliographies contain many titles of sonar material still classified as confidential.

2. The oceanography chapter of the JANIS reports have been prepared in this office, but the responsibility for their preparation comes under the cognizance of the Director of Naval Intelligence.

3. It is understood informally that the Director of Naval Intelligence has given permission for declassification from confidential to restricted for most of the chapters for which they are responsible, including the chapter on oceanography. In some cases, the permission was given some time ago; those reports prepared prior to June 1944 have been declassified for some time.

ONI review(s)  
completed.

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4. It is further understood that the declassification was to permit the distribution to repository libraries where they might be consulted by scientists and scholars. This action seems highly desirable in view of the research that has gone into the preparation of the reports.

5. Despite the desirability of carrying out the distribution outlined in Paragraph 4, it has been called to our attention that sonar information has not yet been declassified and may not be in the immediate future.

6. As a result of the action outlined in Paragraph 3, it may be difficult, if not impossible, to recall and reclassify all copies of oceanographic chapters already declassified.

7. In this connection, it should be borne in mind that the sonar charts were not classified as confidential until the winter charts of the third edition were printed and hence considerable sonar information is already widely distributed.

W. G. WATT  
By direction of the  
Hydrographer.

c.c.  
Op-16  
JISPB  
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